

REMARKS

Claims 24, 28, and 29 are pending in this application. Claims 8-15 were previously canceled and claims 1-7, 16-23, and 25-27 are canceled herein. Claims 24 and 28 have been amended and claim 29 has been added herein. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,271,590 to Akram, *et al.*, and claims 1-2, 16-20, and 22-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,888,588 to Nagabushnam, *et al.* In addition, claims 3, 5-7, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagabushnam, *et al.*

However, all claims remaining in the application, except independent claim 24 and dependent claim 28 (depends from claim 24), have been canceled. Further, independent claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 25, 26, and 27. Likewise, new claim 29 is a combination of claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 24, and 25.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references, whether considered singly or in combination, even suggest, much less teach the unique combination of elements now required by amended claim 24 or new claim 29.

More specifically, Nagabushnam, *et al.* discloses a gate electrode having a silicon (tungsten nitride/tungsten silicon nitride/tungsten silicide composition (See Col. 2, lines 19-22)). Whereas, the claims of the present invention require a gate electrode made of a stack comprised of polysilicon/WN_x/tungsten. As shown in table 1 of the application, this stacked composition has much lower resistance than a stack of polysilicon /WSi when the specific composition of

WN_x (x is a value between 0.3 and 0.5) is used. This advantage and feature is not even suggested much less taught by Nagabushnam, *et al.* and is believed patentable.

It is further submitted that although the exact unique combination of elements may be different, each of the different issues have been considered such that a new search is not required and little or no further consideration of issues is required.

Therefore, the Examiner is urged to reconsider the rejection and pass this case to issue.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the appropriate fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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